



AF/1742
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: APECS INVESTMENT CASTINGS PTY. LTD.) Examiner: SHEEHAN, J.
Serial Number: 08637802) Art Unit: 1742
Filed: 5/8/96)
For: SILVER ALLOY COMPOSITIONS)
Docket Number: 4999)

AMENDMENT TO APPEAL BRIEF

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
And Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

March 19, 2001

Sir:

The Examiner raised issues of missing or omitted material in his reply brief dated January 17, 2001. Applicant herewith submits information to answer these issues.

In reply to the lack of superior qualities data allegation of the Examiner, applicant submits the attached chart showing comparative qualities of the alloys.

In reply to page 11, (II), the summary below shows the gross market share of Sterling Silver in the United States marketplace with the identified totals for Apecs Sterling Silver Alloys.

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MARKET SHARE OF APECS STERLING SILVER ALLOY

Sterling Silver Sales
Annually USA

S/Sil Sales of Jewelry
Casting/Material Products

Historical Comparison
Years 1994-1998

~ 10 Million Tr Oz

2.5 – 3.0 Million Tr Oz of which
UPMR is selling ~ 1/3rd or: 1.0
Million Tr Oz of which Apecs
Sterling Silver Alloy accounts for
63.6% or:

636,521 Tr Oz in 1999

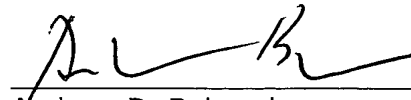
UPMR Sales Total
400,000 Tr Oz 1994

UPMR Sales of Apecs Alloy
160,043 Tr Oz 1994
242,250 Tr Oz 1995
423,442 Tr Oz 1996
495,837 Tr Oz 1997
610,641 Tr Oz 1998

Regarding page 13(II) and (III), persons skilled in the art were working to solve the problem. This is as evidenced by M. Rateau; Albert P. Johns (1991) *Novel silver-based ternary alloy* Metaleurop Recherche. Patent F 2 675 817/GB 2 255 348.

Another reference is the Peter Johns, technical paper, Firestain Resistant Silver Alloys, Santa Fe Symposium on Jewelry Manufacturing Technology 1997.

Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 19, 2001.


Sharon Stolf

ALLOYS SHOWING COMPARATIVE VICKERS HARDNESS TEST RESULTS

